

BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1965

Council Offices,  
Monmouth.

E. N. DOWELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

MONMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mayor

Alderman S. Howard Bowen, J.P.

Deputy Mayor

Councillor K. E. Kissack, J.P.

ALDERMEN

Mr. T. J. Griffiths

Mr. J. B. Breakwell

Mr. B. Partridge

COUNCILLORS

Mr. W. L. Bigham

Mr. J. C. Lewis

Mr. P. C. Harris

Mr. R. Alexander

Mr. R. G. Goodenough

Mr. R. R. H. Willcox

Dr. G. E. Griffiths

Mrs. N. C. A. Smith

Mr. M. L. Pearce

Mr. R. Bishop

Mr. R. N. Smith

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Town Clerk - R. Wallis, A.I.M.T.A.

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Public Health Committee

Chairman - Councillor Dr. G. E. Griffiths

Alderman B. Partridge

Councillor R. R. H. Willcox

Councillor P. C. Harris

Councillor Mrs. N. C. A. Smith

Councillor J. C. Lewis

Councillor R. Alexander

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health

E. N. Dowell, M.R.C.S., K.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

W. A. Haigh, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

# BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH



MONMOUTH.

27th May, 1966.

The Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Monmouth.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1965.

The health of the Borough was satisfactory.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Haigh for his help and co-operation.

I remain,  
Your obedient Servant,

E. N. DOWELL

Medical Officer of Health.

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MONMOUTH BOROUGH 1965

STATISTICS

The estimated mid-year population was 5,830. In 1964 it was 5,820. The natural increase, i.e. the figure that the number of births exceeds the number of deaths, was 3. In 1964 the natural increase was 14.

Births

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	48	45	93
Illegitimate	1	3	4

Of the above, only 29 were registered with the Local Registrar.

The highest number of births recorded since 1950 was 111 in 1952 and the lowest was 73 in 1959.

The live birth rate per 1000 of population for Monmouthshire was 19.05.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-

There were no stillbirths in 1960 and 1962. In 1952, 1953, 1961 and 1963, three stillbirths were recorded.

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3

The following gives a list of the deaths of infants under one year of age, giving age at, and cause of death:-

- (i) Male      4 months      . Asphyxia  
                                     Acute tracheo-bronchitis
- (ii) Male      3 months      Asphyxia due to inhalation of vomit
- (iii) Female    1 week      1(a) Meningitis  
                                     (b) Meningo-myelocoele  
                                     11 Lacunae skull and cranium bifidum.

There were no deaths of infants under one year of age in 1960 and 1961. There were 5 deaths in 1951.

The infant mortality rate per 1000 live births for Monmouthshire was 21.21.

Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	45	49	94

There were 56 deaths in 1959 and 83 in 1964. There were 4 deaths attributed to malignant disease of lung in 1956.

The death rate per 1000 of population for Monmouthshire was 12.31.

DEATHS IN MONMOUTH BOROUGH 1965

The following table gives a classification of the cause of death and the number attributed to each cause:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis respiratory	1	
Tuberculosis, other	1	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach		2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	
Malignant neoplasm, breast		4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	8
Coronary disease, angina	15	13
Other heart disease	6	10
Other circulatory disease	3	2
Pneumonia	1	2
Bronchitis	2	1
Hyperplasia prostate	1	
Congenital malformations		2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3
All other accidents	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	45	49
	<hr/>	<hr/>



## GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

### Diphtheria

For fourteen consecutive years no case has been notified.

### Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year 76 children were immunised against diphtheria. In 1964 the number of immunisations was 100.

Of the number immunised, 25 were babies born in 1965 and 40 were born in 1964.

### Vaccinations (smallpox)

In 1965 only 38 primary vaccinations were completed. In 1962, the year that smallpox came to South Wales, there were 1024.

### Poliomyelitis

For eight consecutive years no case has been notified.

In 1957 three confirmed cases were discovered and a fourth was diagnosed as Lymphocytic Meningitis, probably Poliomyelitis. Previous to this, for six years, only one unconfirmed case was notified.

### Food Poisoning

There were no cases notified.

### Tuberculosis

The only notification received during the year of a primary case of tuberculosis was that occurring in the lungs of a female, age 67 years. In 1954 there were 19 notifications.

### Vaccinations against Anthrax

There are no establishments in your district using materials which might expose the workers to special risk of contracting the disease.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER

The main water supply of the town is supplied by the Wales Gas Board, Monmouth Gas & Water Undertaking. There are three separate sources of supply:-

- (1) High Pressure, Buckholt
- (2) Low Pressure, Buckholt
- (3) River from Mayhill

#### (1) High Pressure, Buckholt

Supplies 110,000 galls. per day.

#### Source

The known source is a spring in an opening in the rock formation in a large quarry situated in woodland owned by the Monmouth Gas and Water Undertaking. This land is fenced off.

The possibility of contamination at source is reduced to animal wild life. The gathering grounds consist of:-

- (a) Woodland;
- (b) Agricultural land forming sides of hill.

As spring is near top of a syncline in the rock formation it is possible that there may only be contamination from this agricultural land during heavy rainfall.

### Collection, Purification and Distribution

Water from gathering grounds drains to inaccessible chamber buried under road, and to collection chambers within boundary of plot of land owned by the Undertaking.

The water is piped from these collecting chambers to storage tanks.

Water is chlorinated by Gas Chlorination.

The chlorinated water passes from storage tanks to main to Buckholt Water Works. Here it is filtered and passed out to town mains.

At Highfield Road this supply is fed into 75,000 gallon storage tanks which feed Osbaston and town, including the Kymin, via hydrostat, and Wyesham.

(2) Low Pressure, Buckholt

Supplies 1,241,000 galls. per day.

Source

The origin of source is unknown, gathering grounds are probably Buckholt Woods.

Collection, Purification and Distribution

Spring water collects in chamber by side of road below Cider Mill Cottage and is piped to Buckholt water Works. Here it is chlorinated, then passed through slow sand filters and into the town mains. These mains go across country to Leasbrook Lane and feed Dixon Road, etc.

Water Works, Buckholt

These consist of:-

- (1) High Pressure filter
- (2) Two slow sand filters
- (3) Drip feed chlorination. Chlorine solution made from chloride of lime.

(3) Mayhill Supply

Supplies 171,000 galls. per day

This is mainly river water pumped.

Water Works, Mayhill

These consist of:-

- (1) Storage tank, 245,000 gallons
- (2) Two slow sand filters
- (3) Chlorination tanks
- (4) Clean water storage, 12,000 gallons

The water passes through sand filters, is chlorinated by Gas Chlorination in clean water storage tanks.

The supply was regularly sampled for bacteriological examination and of 79 samples taken 79 were satisfactory.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

71 new houses and flats were connected to the sewer;  
1 new house was connected to a septic tank.

The first sewerage system of the Borough came into operation in 1897; it was a combined system and still exists. Several alterations have, however since been made.

- (1) Overmonnow and Brook Estate have been modified to a separte system.
- (2) Three areas drained in separte systems have been connected to the system:-
  - (a) New housing scheme at Brook Estate
  - (b) Development at Old Hereford Road
  - (c) Wyesham and Victoria Estates.

The combined sewers of the central area of the town are relieved by three stormwater overflows sited as follows:-

- (1) Eastern Gate
- (2) Watkins' Row
- (3) Chippenhamgate Street

these discharge the storm water into the River Wye.

All sewers on the west side of the Wye drain by gravity to a pumping station sited in the eastern corner of the Cattle Market, whence sewage is lifted by means of two manually operated electrically driven pumps and pumped to treatment works situated on the eastern side of the Monmouth By-Pass.

## Chippenham Treatment Works

The Chippenham treatment works consist of:-

- (a) Two settling tanks
- (b) Twelve contact beds
- (c) Two sludge lagoons

These works are sixty years old and out of date and are unable to deal with the sewage in a satisfactory manner.

## Redbrook Road Works

Sewage on east side of Wye gravitates to a position near the opening to the present inverted syphon on the east bank of the River Wye. A pumping station has been constructed on Corporation land behind the Monmouth School pavilion. A pumping main has been laid across the School playing fields, following the line of the old sewer, to the Redbrook Road and along the road to the treatment works.

The works consist of:-

Number Phase 1	Number when all Phases complete	Description
2	2	Detritus Chambers & Screens
2	4	Settlement Tanks
2	4	Filter Beds
4	6	Humus Tanks
6	12	Sludge Beds

together with various pumps and mains at the treatment works.

Sewage first goes to the detritus chambers and screens where large solids are screened and passed direct to the sludge drying beds. Sewage passing through the detritus screens goes next to the settlement tank where biological action takes place and the solids left again go through to the sludge drying beds. Liquid sewage, with suspended solids, from the settlement tanks is then passed through to the filter beds.



Bacteriological action takes place in these beds further breaking down the liquids into non-noxious parts. From the filter beds the liquid goes to the humus tanks where all remaining suspended solids are precipitated and passed to the sludge drying beds. The remaining liquid, which is now virtually pure, is then discharged into the river. Any liquid remaining in the sludge drying beds drains off and is passed back for further treatment. The sludge when dry is removed.

The works operated satisfactorily throughout the year, the Royal Commission standards being obtained for final effluent.

#### Sewage Disposal

In June the works of extension to the Redbrook Road Works and replacement of the Pumping Station at Chippenham were commenced. This has led to many difficulties, the main one being pumping at Chippenham.

#### Chippenham Works

The effluent continued to be unsatisfactory and steps to cease using these works have been taken.

#### Unsewered Areas

There still remains three areas of the town without a sewerage system, namely:-

- (a) Northern area - Manson Cross, Manson Heights, and Manson Lane;
- (b) Osbaston;
- (c) Leasbrook Lane and the lower half of Dixon Road

These properties are served by individual septic tanks constructed and maintained by the user. Outside the areas already discussed are scattered cottages, some of which have septic tank drainage, the remainder using chemical and bucket closets.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The total area of collection remains the same as for previous years.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Weekly collection is made to most of the area, certain outlying areas receive a fortnightly collection. All business premises in the centre of the town receive two collections weekly.

The use of paper sacks has been extended to all new council property and has proved satisfactory.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL

The disposal of refuse is still far from satisfactory.

Much discussion, enquiries and investigations were carried out during the year.

A piece of land thought to be satisfactory for controlled tipping was found and the landlord willing to sell.

Planning consent was sought and a large number of objections were received, and the County Planning Committee refused Planning Permission.

The planning officer was then invited to suggest alternative sites. Certain of the sites which had possibilities were objected to on the proximity of sub-soil water.

The only suggestion arrived at was to use Hadnock Quarry, this turned out to be unavailable.

Further discussions followed and the possibility of incineration was pursued. Several members visited Andover to see an incinerator and were suitably impressed.

The Public Health Committee then decided to carry out refuse disposal by incineration. No definite results had been reached by the end of the year.



## HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses owned by the Local Authority:-

(1) Under the Housing Acts	630
(2) Other Powers	4

Number of houses erected during the year:-

(a) By Local Authority	46
(b) By other Bodies and Persons	26
Total	72

Of this number the following were erected with State Assistance under Housing Acts:-

(a) By Local Authority	Nil
(b) By other Bodies and Persons	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.

(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects (under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts)	18
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(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	64
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2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	3
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
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(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
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(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
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3. (2) (b) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice
- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (i) By the Owners                                    | Nil |
| (ii) By the Local Authority in the Default of Owners | Nil |
- (3) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1936
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made  | 3   |
| (b) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders   | Nil |
| (c) Undertakings given and accepted   | Nil |
| (d) Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made   | 5   |
| (e) Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the house or room having been rendered fit | Nil |
| (4) Clearance Area - Houses demolished  | Nil |

#### 4. Improvement Grants

The use of improvement grants to bring houses up to modern standards is still being encouraged.

Standard Grants - 8; Discretionary Grants - 5.

### CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

Site	No. of Vans	M.Cs.	Taps	Gullies	Bins
Drybridge Street	15	1M 1F	2	2	2
Old Hadnock Road	8 vans 5 tents	1M 2F	2	2	3
"Riverside", Homestead Old Hadnock Road	12	3M 3F	4	8	9
King's Orchard, Manson	6	1M 1F	1	1	3

The above are licenced sites; besides these several fields adjoining the river are used by Exempted Organised Bodies. The number of tents on these sites varies considerably from 2 to 30.

### SWIMMING POOLS

There are now three pools, one at Monmouth School for Girls, one at Monmouth School and one owned by the Monmouth and District Swimming Association.

Several visits were paid and water examined; all were satisfactory.

### SCHOOLS

All schools are on the main sewerage system, and all schools are on the main water supply. Samples of milk and water were taken periodically by Monmouthshire County Council.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Unsound Food

The following miscellaneous foodstuffs were condemned:-

Meat	41 tins	Fish	40 tins
Fruit	59 tins	Tomatoes	46 tins
Vegetable	98 tins	Miscellaneous	19 tins
Bacon	9 lbs.		

### Distribution of Food Premises by Trades

Butchers	12	Fishmongers	2
Greengrocers	6	Grocers	11
General	19	Hotels	4
Guest Houses	4	Licenced Premises	35
Clubs	4	Schools	7
Fish & Chip Shops	3	Cafes	9
Bakers	3	Miscellaneous	3
Poultry Preparing Premises	1		
		Total	125

### Premises Registered under Foods and Drugs Act, 1955 S.16

Ice Cream Premises	27
Fish and Chip Shops	3
Sausage & Cooked Meats	9

### Disposal of Condemned Food

The unsound food from shops is disposed of at the Refuse Tip, Brooksholme by incineration.

### Inspection of Food Premises

Inspection of food premises is of necessity, a routine and regular duty if any real improvement is to be obtained

Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	*(1)	*(2)	*(3)	*(4)	*(5)
Number of properties in Local Authority's District	10	1,785	527	2,322	22
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	200	96	3	99	-
(b) Survey under the Act	Nil	104	-	188	-
Total inspections carried out including re-inspection	84	896	12	982	-
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infected by:-					
Rats (Major					
(Minor	84	104	-	188	-
Mice (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor					
Number of infested properties treated by the L.A.	84	200	3	287	-
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	84	200	3	287	
Number of 'Block' control schemes carried out	24				

\*(1) - Non-agricultural type - Local Authority

\*(2) - - Dwelling Houses (inc. Council houses)

\*(3) - - All other (inc. business premises)

\*(4) - Total of Columns(1), (2) and (3)

\*(5) - Agricultural type

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written notices	
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	9	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	47	40	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	52	49	Nil	Nil



2. Cases in which defects were found:-

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more separate "cases".)

	No. of cases in which defects were:-				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) a. Insufficient b. Unsuitable or defective c. Not separate for sexes				1	
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Inspections have been made, but unfortunately these once again were in the course of visits for other purposes and not routine.

There is therefore no guide as to any improvements achieved by the Act.

TABLE A REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Totals	*(1)	*(2)	*(3)	*(4)
Offices		28	28	11
Retail shops		80	80	42
Wholesale shops, warehouses		4	4	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens		13	13	7
Fuel storage depots		2	2	2

\*(1) Class of premises

\*(2) Number of premises registered during the year

\*(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year

\*(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year

TABLE B NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY  
INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

63

TABLE C ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED  
PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed	
	Males	Females
Offices	8	72
Retail shops	141	247
Wholesale departments, warehouses	24	21
Catering establishments open to the public	32	138
Canteens	NIL	NIL
Fuel storage depots	3	
Total	759	
Total Males	281	
Total Females	478	



